

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 02728 210239Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 DOTE-00 CG-00
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 INT-05 /046 W
-----103772 210245Z /65
R 210158Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5398

UNCLAS TOKYO 2728

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, JA
SUBJECT: JAPN RESPONSE TO ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA NOTE

REF: A) STATE 306293 (1977) B) STATE 034388

1. SUMMARY: GOJ DISAGREES WITH SUBSTANCE OF NOTE DELIVERED DECEMBER 28 STATING U.S. CONCERN ON STATUS OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA STOCKS. IN REPLY RECEIVED BY EMBASSY FEBRUARY 17 IN FORM OF NOTE VERBALE, GOJ STATES THAT TUNA STOCKS SHOULD BE MANAGED THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO ARBITRARY CONTROL OF AN INDIVIDUAL NATION. AS MEMBER OF ICCAT, GOJ INDICATES IT IS ABIDING BY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS INTERNATIONAL BODY. NOTE ALSO BRIEFLY EXPLAINS JAPAN'S REGULATION OF ITS ATLANTIC BLUEFIN FISHERY AND BLAMES DECLINE OF ABUNDANCE OF INTERMEDIATE YEAR CLASSES TO U.S. PURSE SEINING. END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT OF NOTE VERBALE AS FOLLOWS:
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO INFORM THE LATTER OF THE FOLLOWING VIEWS OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE STATUS OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA STOCKS WHICH WAS REFERRED TO BY THE LATTER'S NOTE DATED DECEMBER 28, 1977.

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IS NOT IN A POSITION TO AGREE WITH THE U.S. VIEW THAT THE FISHING PATTERNS OF THE JAPANESE FLEET
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 02728 210239Z

APPEAR TO BE CONTRARY TO THE CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ICCAT.

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN BELIEVES THAT THE RESOURCES OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES, SUCH AS TUNAS AND BILLFISHES, SHOULD BE MANAGED UNITARILY ON THE BASIS OF BEST AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE

SUBJECTED TO ARBITRARY CONTROL OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONS. THE BLUEFIN TUNA RESOURCE IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IS BEING MANAGED THROUGH THE ICCAT, TO WHICH BOTH JAPAN AND USA ARE PARTIES. THIS ORGANIZATION ADOPTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING HELD IN MADRID IN 1974 THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BLUEFIN TUNA THAT EACH MEMBER NATION SHALL TAKE MEASURES TO LIMIT THE FISHING MORTALITY OF BLUEFIN TUNA TO RECENT LEVELS. THIS RECOMMENDATION, AS EXPLAINED AT THE MEETING, IS INTENDED TO OBLIGE EACH MEMBER NATION TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RECOMMENDATION BY FREEZING EITHER THE LEVEL OF CATCH OR FISHING EFFORT, WHICHEVER MORE FEASIBLE. THE RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN RENEWED SINCE AND THIS IS STILL THE ONLY RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE REGULATION ON THE LEVEL OF CATCH OR FISHING EFFORT OF BLUEFIN IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SCRS) OF THE ICCAT AT THE 1977 REGULAR MEETING SAW NO NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS TO THE AFOREMENTIONED RECOMMENDATION ON BLUEFIN.

IN RESPONSE TO THIS RECOMMENDATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS UNDERTAKEN TO LIMIT THE JAPANESE CATCH IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TO THE 1974 LEVEL BY SETTING THE QUOTA FOR DIRECTED FISHERY AT 4,500 TONS AND THE CEILING OF THE INCIDENTAL CATCH AFTER THE QUOTA ATTAINMENT AT LESS THAN 10 PERCENT IN WEIGHT OF THE TOTAL CATCH OF TUNAS OTHER THAN BLUEFIN. OWING TO THIS RESTRICTIVE MEASURE, THE TOTAL CATCH OF BLUEFIN BY THE JAPANESE LONGLINE FISHERY HAS SINCE BEEN KEPT AT THE 1974 LEVEL.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TOKYO 02728 210239Z

WHT RESPECT TO THE JAPANESE FISHERY OFF THE COASTS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN MAKES THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO REGULATE JAPANESE FISHERY IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THEIR AGGREGATE FISHING EFFORT AND CATCH IN THE GULF OF MEXICO REGION DO NOT EXCEED THE 1976 LEVEL. IN FACT, THE FISHING EFFORT IN 1978 BY THE JAPANESE FLEET IN THIS REGION IS EXPECTED TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN THE 1976 LEVEL.

2. THE FISHING SEASON IN THE REGION OFF THE COAST OF NEW ENGLAND EXTENDS FROM NOVEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY, WITH BIGEYE TUNA AS A MAJOR TARGET SPECIES. THE SEASON IS NOW APPROACHING TO THE END AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN EXPECTS THAT THE JAPANESE CATCH OF BLUEFIN TUNA IN THIS AREA WILL BE CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN THE PREVIOUS SEASON.

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN FULLY APPRECIATES THE STRINGENT CATCH RESTRICTION PLACED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THE U.S. FISHERMEN, AND DEEMS THEM ESSENTIAL FOR THE CONSERVATION AND BETTER UTILIZATION OF BLUEFIN WHICH GROW TO GIANT SIZE. HOWEVER,

IT WOULD BE UNFAIR IF WE DID NOT REFER TO ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF SUCH STRINGENT REGULATIONS BECOMING NECESSARY. THAT IS THE FACT THAT THE DRASTIC DECLINE IN THE ABUNDANCE OF INTERMEDIATE AGE CLASSES (5 - 1 YEARS OLDS) HAS BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE UN-CONTROLLED EXPANSION OF THE U.S. PURSE SEINE FISHERY IN THE PAST. FURTHERMORE, IN TERMS OF THE AGGREGATE CATCH, THE U.S. FISHERY IS STILL BY FAR THE LARGEST PREDATER OF THE 1973 YEAR CLASS OF WHICH THE U.S. SIDE STRESSES THE NEED FOR PARTICULAR PRUDENCE IN HARVEST. IN FACT, THE JAPANESE CATCH OF THIS PARTICULAR YEAR CLASS IS ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF WHAT THE U.S. HAS CAUGHT IN THE AREA AND HENCE CAN NOT BE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE AS TO CALL IN THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS SINCERE WISH
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 TOKYO 02728 210239Z

TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THE CONSERVATION AND RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF THE RESOURCE, WHILE MINIMIZING THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE FISHING INDUSTRIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

TOKYO, FEBRUARY 16, 1978.
MANSFIELD

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TUNA, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO02728
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780077-0607
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780231/aaaababm.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c3c7b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 306293, 78 STATE 34388
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3531673
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPN RESPONSE TO ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA NOTE
TAGS: EFIS, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c3c7b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014